



# **State of New Hampshire Guardian ad Litem Board**

## **Public Minutes**

**November 21, 2014**

Legislative Office Building Room 101

**Members Present:** Susan Duncan, Chair, Chris Keating, Vice-Chair, Alan Cantor, Master Henrietta Luneau, Betsy Paine, Dave Robbins, David Villiotti

**Members Absent:** Representative Deanna Rollo, Senator David Pierce

Chairwoman called the meeting to order at 1:25pm.

A quorum was present.

### **1. Public Comment**

There was no public present.

### **2. Review Minutes**

October 10, 2014 Full Board- B. Paine made a motion to approve the minutes. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 5-0-2. M. Luneau and D. Villiotti abstaining. Motion passes.

November 3, 2014 Sub-Committee- A. Cantor made a motion to approve the minutes. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

November 19, 2014 Sub Committee- C. Keating made a motion to approve the minutes. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes

### **3. GAL Statistics as of November 21, 2014**

#### **a. 88 Certified GALs**

- i.** 2 are no longer accepting appointments
- ii.** 3 are temporary for the purpose of completing an appointment
- iii.** Technically, there are 83 Certified GALs able & willing to serve.

#### **b. 0 GALs expired in November**

#### **c. 2 GALs are still within the 90 day re-certification period**

#### **d. 60 GALs are certified in Family Division**

#### **e. 68 GALs are certified in District Court**

#### **f. 85 GALs are certified in Superior Court**

#### **g. 75 GALs are certified in Probate Court**

### **4. Board Actions & Updates**

Board Chair and staff are in process of reclassifying position to Administrative Assistant I. After reviewing the job description it is apparent that the staff role has changed. There are more duties and they are working without supervision.

The Board received responses from Judge Kelly & Judge Nadeau regarding attorneys GALs being appointed in certain cases. They did not seem to think it was an issue.

The Board reviewed an email from George LaRocque requesting that GAL attorneys be relieved of CEU requirements. After discussion the Board decided to respond that the Board does not have the statutory authority to waive training.

Recently the office staff received a phone call inquiring what happens to the records of a GAL who passes away. The Board discussed that this is the first time this has happened and they do not have rules

about it. It was brought up to research what the NHBAR does and think about putting a policy in the Board's rules.

The Board reviewed a list of LSRs that could possibly affect the Board or GALs. The list included:

- 2015-H-0054-R **title:** relative to renewal fees for state licensing boards.  
**Sponsors: (Prime)**Patrick Abrami
- 2015-H-0060-R **title:** relative to state agency implementation of performance audit recommendations.  
**Sponsors: (Prime)**Jeffrey Oigny
- 2015-H-0071-R **title:** relative to inspection of governmental records under the right-to-know law.  
**Sponsors: (Prime)**Timothy Horrigan
- 2015-H-0072-R **title:** relative to the content of minutes in nonpublic sessions under the right-to-know law.  
**Sponsors: (Prime)**Timothy Horrigan
- 2015-H-0096-R **title:** relative to the definition of "meeting" under the right-to-know law.  
**Sponsors: (Prime)**Jacqueline Cali-Pitts
- 2015-H-0133-R **title:** relative to an emergency exception for certain part-time employment.  
**Sponsors: (Prime)**Mario Ratzki
- 2015-H-0152-R **title:** allowing regulatory boards and commissions to recover certain investigative costs.  
**Sponsors: (Prime)**Carol McGuire

The Board discussed that a currently certified GAL was appointed to the House of Representatives for the State. The decided to have Board staff notify the GAL to remind them about GAL rule 503.08 Special Rules Regarding Guardians ad Litem Who are Elected Officials.

The Board reviewed a Right to Know Request from Chris Herring. He was requesting Complaint Statistics, # of cases each GAL has been appointed, Current list of certified GALs, List of complainants, and GALs complained about and result of complaint. It was explained that the Board staff was in contact with counsel regarding what information was public and what was confidential. As soon as confirmation from counsel is received the request will be full-filled.

## 5. Late Reports

All Circuit Courts reporting and no late reports for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014.

## 6. CEU Requests

In the Best interest of Child Series High Conflict Behavior in Family Law cases, 7 CEUs. A. Cantor Recused. After reviewing the request C. Keating made a motion to approve the course as submitted. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 6-0-1 A. Cantor abstaining. Motion passes.

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Symposium, 6 CEUs. After reviewing the request, M. Luneau made a motion to ask for more information in the form of agendas, presenter bios, and course descriptions. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

Intro to Drug Courts, Reconsideration. The Board denied request at October meeting because it was not relevant and more procedural. S. Duncan made a motion to reconsider the request. D. Robbins seconded. Vote: 7-0. After reviewing the newly submitted information, D. Villiotti made a motion to approve for 3 CEUs. A. Cantor seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

**7. Non-Public Session**

*B. Paine moved to go into non-public session for the purposes of discussing a matter which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of a person or persons who is not a member of this body pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(c). D. Robbins seconded. A roll call vote was taken:*

*A. Cantor, Aye, S. Duncan, Aye, C. Keating, Aye, M. Luneau, Aye, B. Paine, Aye, D. Robbins, Aye, D. Villiotti, Aye*

***~Non-Public Session~***

*S. Duncan made a motion to go back into public session. M. Luneau seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.*

**8. Chapter 400 Rules**

C. Keating made a motion to approve the proposed Chapter 400 rules with the exception of 403.04 & 403.08. B. Paine seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.

**9. Thank You**

Chairwoman Duncan thanked Representative Rollo & Senator Pierce for their service to the Board as their appointments expire before the next meeting.

B. Paine made a motion to adjourn. C. Keating seconded. Vote: 7-0. Motion passes.